

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17, and 19-24 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 stand rejected; and claim 5 stands objected to. Claims 8-15, 17, and 19-24 are allowed. By this amendment, claims 5 and 6 have been amended, and claims 1-4 have been canceled. This application now includes claims 5-15, 17, and 19-24.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 8-15, 17, and 19-24. In addition, the Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have so amended claim 5, and accordingly believe claim 5, as amended, to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, Applicants have amended claim 6 to be dependent from claim 5, and accordingly, believe claim 6, and claim 7, depending from claim 6, to be in condition for allowance in their present respective forms.

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 1-4 to put the present application in condition for allowance, and expressly reserve the right to pursue claims 1-4 in a continuation application.

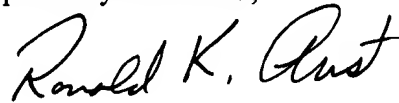
Submitted herewith is a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, including the requisite statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e).

Applicants submit that the now pending claims 5-15, 17, and 19-24 are in condition for allowance in their present form, and Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 5-15, 17, and 19-24 in due course.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (317) 894-0801.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald K. Aust  
Registration No. 36,735

Attorney for Applicants

RKA14/ts

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.  
12029 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
Telephone: 317-894-0801  
Facsimile: 317-894-0803

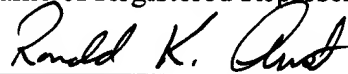
Enc.: Return postcard

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: November 10, 2003.

Ronald K. Aust, Reg. No. 36,735

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

November 10, 2003

Date